China, People’s Republic of: Weihe River Watershed Management in Shaanxi

**Project Name**: Weihe River Watershed Management in Shaanxi

**Project Number**: 47060-001

**Country**: People’s Republic of China

**Project Status**: Closed

**Project Type / Modality of Assistance**: Technical Assistance

**Source of Funding / Amount**: TA 8454-PRC: Weihe River Watershed Management in Shaanxi

- Technical Assistance Special Fund
- US$ 350,000.00

**Strategic Agendas**: Environmentally sustainable growth, Inclusive economic growth

**Drivers of Change**: Governance and capacity development

**Sector / Subsector**: Agriculture, natural resources and rural development - Rural water policy, institutional and capacity development - Water-based natural resources management

**Gender Equity and Mainstreaming**

**Description**: During the Asian Development Bank (ADB) country programming mission in Manila in December 2012, the Government of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) requested ADB to provide policy and advisory technical assistance (TA) to help the Shaanxi Provincial Government (SPG) in watershed management in the Weihe River. This TA was then included in ADB’s country operations business plan, 2013-2015 for the PRC.

**Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy**: With the fast economic development in Weihe River watershed in recent years, many problems have arisen. These include increasing water resources scarcity, water pollution, and ecological deterioration caused by sedimentation in the Sanmenxia reservoir region downstream of Weihe River. These problems have seriously constrained the socioeconomic development in the lower reaches of Weihe River. The flow in Weihe River is currently highly regulated. A total of 26 dams and reservoirs (4 large ones and remaining medium-sized) regulate the water flow within the river and also contribute to hydropower production. The province is nonetheless facing a water resource scarcity primarily due to competing demands on the available water resources in Weihe River. Shaanxi Province has implemented various measures in an effort to meet the water resources demands and requirements of the various stakeholders. However, the lack of a coordinated mechanism to address the competing demands on water resources has resulted in a situation of conflict between different administrative units along Weihe River in Shaanxi Province.

Shaanxi Provincial Government has therefore requested the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to provide technical assistance (TA) to (i) review the range of key water management issues affecting Weihe River, and prepare strategic plan management recommendations; and (ii) provide recommendations for improved organizational arrangements for watershed management in the Weihe River basin.

**Impact**: Sustainable management of water resources in the Weihe River basin in Shaanxi province achieved.

**Project Outcome**

**Description of Outcome**: Improved strategic planning and organizational arrangements for management of Weihe River watershed

**Progress Toward Outcome**: --

**Implementation Progress**

**Description of Project Outputs**: 1. A strategic framework and management recommendations for watershed and water resources management in the Weihe River basin in Shaanxi Province.
2. An improved organizational set-up for management of the Weihe River watershed
3. Enhanced communication and awareness on river basin water management issues

**Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)**: An interim review mission was conducted during 10-13 May 2016. A brief overview of implementation progress in relation to the outputs is summarized below.

- **Output 1. Progress**: The following key activities have been completed and achieved: (a) review international approaches for allocating and managing water for multifunctional purposes in highly modified or regulated rivers, and make recommendations for the Weihe River; (b) identification and review of major issues affecting water resources management and water allocation for the Weihe River; (c) review of a national case study of a selected Riverbasin management; (d) meetings/workshops within the Weihe River basin with participations of key stakeholders. A number of consultations have already been completed. The preparation of the strategic framework will be completed in the remaining phase of the TA.

- **Output 2. Progress**: The completed activities include (a) review of the organizational and administrative challenges of managing water resources in the Weihe River basin, including assessing key advantages and limitations of the current management and coordination arrangements, and review the existing regulations for the Weihe River basin and prefectural and/or county applications; (b) convened meetings/mini workshops within the Weihe River basin with participations of key stakeholders; and (c) the scope and responsibilities of WRMB has been assessed in detail.

- **Output 3. Progress**: The completed activities include (i) prepared a technical information booklet on water management issues for the river and solutions proposed with relevant stakeholders; and (ii) promoted efforts to improve cooperation on Weihe River water management issues in the local media (SPWRD).

**Geographical Location**: Shaanxi

**Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects**

**Environmental Aspects**
Involuntary Resettlement
Indigenous Peoples
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design
The center for River Engineering Technical Research, the Weihe River Watershed Management Bureau, the Shaanxi Provincial Water Resources Department, the Provincial Finance Bureau, relevant academic institutes, the Global Water Partnership Shaanxi branch, and other key stakeholders participated in consultation meetings and provided input to the project design. An MOU outlining the project concept was discussed and signed with the Shaanxi Provincial Government during the reconnaissance mission in 2013.

During Project Implementation
During TA implementation, consultations with key stakeholders took many forms. Joint missions were organized by the PMO and TA consultant team visiting key stakeholders throughout the Weihe river watershed. The various key stakeholders in the Province (The Provincial Finance Bureau, The Weihe River Watershed Management Bureau, The provincial environmental agencies, representatives from the county governments, academics, civil society organizations (e.g. the global water partnership) and other research institutes also provided feedback and input during the inception workshop.

Business Opportunities
Consulting Services
The TA will require 3 person-months of international and 23 person-months of national consulting services. Four national consultants (river basin water resources management specialist and team leader; legal specialist; institutional and organizational reform specialist; and public administration and policy specialist) and one international river basin water resources management specialist will be required for TA implementation. The consultants will be engaged by ADB in accordance with the Guidelines on the Use of Consultants (2013, as amended from time to time) using the individual selection method.

Responsible ADB Officer
Lopez, Alvin

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Executing Agencies
Weihe River Management Bureau
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Economic and Technological Development Zone of Xi'an,
Shaanxi, PRC

Timetable
Concept Clearance
21 Jun 2013
Fact Finding
16 Apr 2013 to 18 Apr 2013
MRM
-
Approval
23 Sep 2013
Last Review Mission
23 Sep 2013
Last PDS Update
23 Sep 2013

TA 8454-PRC

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Financing Plan/TA Utilization

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